

## Message Text

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50  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SAM-01

SAB-01 ACDA-10 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 /086 W  
----- 081592

R 181140Z JUN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7131  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3810

E.O. 1162: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF  
SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS ON SPECIAL ISRAELI CABINET  
MEETING

1. PRESS CARRY REPORTS ON JUNE 17 SPECIAL CABINET  
MEETING IN WHICH PM RABIN REPORTED ON HIS MISSION  
TO THE US. CABINET RESOLVED " TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS  
AIMED AT REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF THE  
INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
THE CABINET'S DECISIONS OF JUNE 8, 1975, WHEREBY  
THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WILL BE PREPARED TO REVIEW  
ITS POSITION, CONSONANT WITH CHANGES THAT MAY OCCUR  
IN THE GYPTIAN POSITION AS OF MARCH 1975. THE PM,  
THE FM AND THE DEFMN WILL SUBMIT THE CONCLUSIONS  
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR DECISION BY THE CABINET PLENUM.  
PRESS INTERPRET DECISION TO MEAN THAT IT IS NOW UP  
TO THE EGYPTIANS TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE. IT ALSO NOTES  
IMPROVEMENT IN US-ISRAEL RELATIONS AND STRESSES GREATER  
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UNDERSTANDING IN US OF ISRAELI POSITION.

2. HAARETZ (GOLAN) WRITES THAT " FROM THE DECISION IT  
COULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT ISRAEL HAS SUBMITTED TO EGYPT,

THROUGH THE US, NEW PROPOSALS AND IS NOW WAITING FOR CAIRO'S REACTION TO THEM. ACCORDING TO SENIOR OBSERVERS IN JERUSALEM, THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL CONCERNS MAINLY THE SUBJECT OF THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MITLE AND GIDI PASSES. IT SEEMS THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR AN AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, ISRAEL HAS EXPRESSED HER WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE WESTERN PART OF THE PASSES, BUT NOT FROM THE EASTERN PART...."

3. YEDIOT (ZIMUKI) REPORTS THAT IT IS CLEAR FROM CABINET DISCUSSIONS THAT " THE BALL IS NOW IN THE EGYPTIAN COURT...THE EGYPTIANS HAVE NOT MADE YET ANY NEW PRACTICAL PROPOSALS...THE AMERICANS CLAIM THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN EGYPTIAN POSITION AND THE CHANCES FOR AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT ARE GREATER THAN IN THE PAST.." ZIMUKI ADDS THAT PM RABIN " RETURNED WITH HE FEELING THAT THE AMERICANS ARE NOW SHOWING UNDERSTANDING OF ISRELI POSITION..."

4. MAARIV (HARIF) REPORTS THAT PM RABIN AGREED IN HIS TALKS IN WASHINGTON " TO MAKE ANOTHER CONCESSION IN THE ABU RODEIS AREA, BUT WAS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE A CONCESSION IN THE PASSES...RABIN WAS READY TO MAKE THIS MOVE FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CLAIM THAT THE ONLY WAY TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT IS BY SIGNING ANOTHER INTERIM SETTLEMENT-OTHERWISE THE US WAS DETERMINED TO FORMULATE AN OVERALL PLAN...AND THIS WOULD CREATE AN OPEN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE US..." THE CONCESSION WHICH THE PM IS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE IN THE AUB-RODEIS IS TO ALLOW EGYPTIAN " TERRITORIAL CONTINUITY" TO ABU-RODEIS. HARIF REPORTS THAT ISRAEL REFUSE TO MAKE THIS CONCESSION IN MARCH.

5. HARIF ALSO WRITES THAT FOLLOWING PM'S BRIEFING TO THE CABINET A DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE AND " MANY MINISTERS, INCLUDING SHEMTOV, RABINOWITZ, OFER, BAR-LEV AND OTHERS, CLAIMED THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID A DANGEROUS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFRONTATION WITH THE US IT IS NECESSARY TO REACH AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT. IT CAN BE INTERPRETED FROM THIS CLAIM THAT THESE MINISTERS ARE READY FOR ADDITIONAL CONCESSION LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE, ANOTHER CONCESSION ALSO IN THE PASSES...IT SEEMS THAT THE PM CONTINUES TO STAND FIRM EVEN UP TO THE POINT OF FRUSTRATING THE CHANCE OF REACHING AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT IF THE CONDITION WILL BE THE COMPLETE EVACUATION OF THE PASSES..."

6. JERUSALEM POST (LANDAU) QUOTES " HIGHLY PLACED SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT " IT WOULD BE TOO SIMPLISTIC TO ASSUME.. THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL RISE OR FALL OVER THE QUESTION OF DURATION...WHILE THE DURATION QUESTION WAS VITAL, THE

NEGOTIATIONS COULD STILL FLOUNDER OVER MANY OTHER  
COMPONENT PARTS OF A POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT. THE ONLY  
POINT WHICH HAD IN FACT BEEN SETTLED WAS THAT CONCERNING  
THE JURIDICAL FRAMEWORK OF AN ACCORD-WITH BOTH  
SIDES NOW PREPARED TO SIGN A 'NON-USE OF FORCE' PACT.  
EVERYTHING ELSE WAS STILL UNRESOLVED: THE TERRITORIAL  
ISSUE... THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ON THE GROUND AND THE  
'ELEMENTS OF NON-BELLIGERENCY'...ANOTHER VARIABLE WHICH  
HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE COMPLICATED EQUATION  
WAS THE ISRAEL-US RELATIONSHIP; THE NATURE OF GUARANTEES  
WHICH THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO OFFER TO SUPPORT AN  
ACCORD, AND THE LEVEL OF ONGOING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC  
AID..." LANDAU WRITES THAT SAME SOURCES " REFUSED TO  
CONFIRM CATEGORICALLY THE REPORTS IN SOME NEWSPAPERS THAT  
RABIN STILL INSISTS ISRAEL MUST RETAIN SOME PRESSENCE  
IN THE MITLA AND GIDI PASSES COME WHAT MAY. THE SOURCES  
INDICATED THAT THE PREMIER HAD NOT BEEN DOGMATIC ABOUT  
THIS IN WASHINGTON.."  
VELIOTES

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